(c) if so, what are the schemes adopted by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Given clear cut objectives and the necessary support, our scientists and technologists have shown their capacity to solve problems.

During the last three years studies in certain areas such as hand-tools, tractors, fiberglass etc. have been made.

(b) Government has been encouraging the promotion and development of technologists in private sector through their own research and development skills.

(c) The schemes initiated by the Government include : According recognition to the in-house Research Development units in Industry; such recognised in-house R&D units can import equipments and raw materials including pilot plant for research and development under Open General Licence ; Income Tax concessions on expenditure incurred on scientific research and on investments made on scientific equipments and capital assests to undertake Scientific Research; Preferential treatment in licensing of the technologies developed indigenuously; de-licensing of industries based on technologies developed in approved Institutions ; enhanced investment allowance on the plant and machinery installed etc.

Discussions of Foreign Secretary with the Sri Lankan Government

236. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the issues which the Foreign Secretary is likely to discuss with the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Eelam Group during his forthcoming visit to Sri Lanka ;

(b) whether negotiations between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Eelam Group are already going on ; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Eelam Groups to the negotiating table for an early settlement of the Sri Lankan issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) No decision has yet been taken for the Foreign Secretary to visit Sri Lanka for discussions with the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Groups. There is no single group called the "Tamil Eelam Group".

(b) There have been reports of some contacts between the Sri Lankan Government and representatives of some Tamil militant groups. Government however do not have any confirmation of these contacts.

(c) As Government have stated, their good offices are available to the Government of Sri Lanka to conduct negotiations with the Tamil groups. However, such negotiations can be held only if an atmosphere conductive to talks on a political solution is created ; it is the responsibility of the Government of Sri Lanka to take appropriate steps to bring about the required atmosphere.

विभिन्न निगमों के अध्यक्षों तथा महाप्रबन्धकों के कार्यकलापों की जांच

237. श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कई निगमों के अध्यक्षों और महाप्रबन्धकों के कार्यकलापों की